Numb. 1

The TATLER.

By *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq;

Quicquid agunt Homines noſtri Farrago Libelli.

Tueſday, April 12. 1709.

THO' the other Papers which are publiſh'd for the Uſe of the good People of England *have certainly very wholeſom Effects, and are laudable in their particular Kinds, they do not ſeem to come up to the main Deſign of ſuch Narrations, which, I humbly preſume, ſhould be principally intended for the Uſe of Politick Perſons, who are ſo publick-ſpirited as to neglect their own Affairs to look into Tranſactions of State. Now theſe Gentlemen, for the moſt Part, being Perſons of ſtrong Zeal and weak Intellects, It is both a Charitable and Neceſſary Work to offer ſomething, whereby ſuch worthy and well-affected Members of the Commonwealth may be inſtructed, after their Reading,* what to think: *Which ſhall be the End and Purpoſe of this my Paper, wherein I ſhall from Time to Time Report and Conſider all Matters of what Kind ſoever that ſhall occur to Me, and publiſh ſuch my Advices and Reflections every* Tueſday, Thurſday, *and* Saturday, *in the Week, for the Convenience of the Poſt. It is alſo reſolv'd by me to have ſomething which may be of Entertainment to the Fair Sex, in Honour of whom I have taken the Title of this Paper. I therefore earneſtly deſire all Perſons, without Diſtinction, to take it in for the preſent* Gratis, *and hereafter at the Price of one Penny, forbidding all Hawkers to take more for it at their Peril. And I deſire all Perſons to conſider, that I am at a very great Charge for proper Materials for this Work, as well as that before I reſolv'd upon it, I had ſettled a Correſpondence in all Parts of the Known and Knowing World; and foraſmuch as this Globe is not trodden upon by mere Drudges of Buſineſs only, but that Men of Spirit and Genius are juſtly to be eſteem'd as conſiderable Agents in it, we ſhall not upon a Dearth of News preſent you with muſty Foreign Edicts, or dull Proclamations, but ſhall divide our Relation of the Paſſages which occur in Action or Diſcourſe throughout this Town, as well as elſewhere, under ſuch Dates of Places as may prepare you for the Matter you are to expect, in the following Manner:*

All Accounts of Gallantry, Pleaſure, *and* Entertainment, *ſhall be under the Article of* White's Chocolate-houſe; Poetry, *under that of* Will's Coffee-houſe; Learning, *under the Title of* Græcian; Foreign *and* Domeſtick News, *you will have from St.* James's Coffee-houſe; *and what elſe I ſhall on any other Subject offer, ſhall be dated from my own* Apartment.

I once more deſire my Reader to conſider, That as I cannot keep an Ingenious Man to go daily to Will's, *under Twopence each Day merely for his Charges; to* White's, *under Sixpence; nor to the* Græcian, *without allowing him ſome Plain* Spaniſh, *to be as able as others at the Learned Table; and that a good Obſerver cannot ſpeak with even* Kidney *at St.* James's *without clean Linnen. I ſay, theſe Conſiderations will, I hope, make all Perſons willing to comply with my Humble Requeſt (when my* Gratis *Stock is exhauſted) of a Penny a Piece; eſpecially ſince they are ſure of ſome Proper Amuſement, and that it is impoſſible for me to want Means to entertain 'em, having, beſides the Helps of my own Parts, the Power of Divination, and that I can, by caſting a Figure, tell you all that will happen before it comes to paſs.*

But this laſt Faculty I ſhall uſe very ſparingly, and not ſpeak of any Thing 'till it is paſt, for fear of divulging Matters which may offend our Superiors.

White's Chocolate-Houſe, April 7.

THE deplorable Condition of a very pretty Gentleman, who walks here at the Hours when Men of Quality firſt appear, is what is very much lamented. His Hiſtory is, That on the 9th of *September*, 1705. being in his One and twentieth Year, he was waſhing his Teeth at a Tavern Window in *Pall-Mall*, when a fine Equipage paſs'd by, and in it a young Lady who look'd up at him; away goes the Coach, and the young Gentleman pull'd off his Night-Cap, and inſtead of rubbing his Gums, as he ought to do, out of the Window 'till about Four a Clock, he ſits him down, and ſpoke not a Word 'till Twelve at Night; after which, he began to enquire, If any Body knew the Lady... The Company ask'd, What Lady? But he ſaid no more, 'till they broke up at Six in the Morning. All the enſuing Winter he went from Church to Church every Sunday, and from Play-houſe to Play-houſe all the Week, but could never find the Original of the Picture which dwelt in his Boſom. In a Word, his Attention to any Thing, but his Paſſion, was utterly gone. He has loſt all the Money he ever play'd for, and been confuted in every Argument he has enter'd upon ſince the Moment he firſt ſaw her. He is of a Noble Family, has naturally a very good Air, is of a frank, honeſt Temper: But this Paſſion has ſo extreamly maul'd him, that his Features are ſet and uniform'd, and his whole Viſage is deaden'd by a long Abſence of Thought. He never appears in any Alacrity, but when rais'd by Wine; at which Time he is ſure to come hither, and throw away a great deal of Wit on Fellows, who have no Senſe further than juſt to obſerve, That our poor Lover has moſt Underſtanding

ding when he's Drunk, and is leaſt in his Senſes when he's Sober.

The Reader is deſir'd to take Notice of the Article from this Place from Time to Time, for I deſign to be very exact in the Progreſs this unhappy Gentleman makes, which may be of great Inſtruction to all who actually are, or who ever ſhall be, in Love.

Will's Coffee-houſe, April 8.

On Thurſday laſt was acted, for the Benefit of Mr. *Betterton*, the Celebrated Comedy, call'd *Love for Love*. Thoſe excellent Players, Mrs. *Barry*, Mrs. *Bracegirdle*, and Mr. *Dogget*, tho' not at preſent concern'd in the Houſe, acted on that Occaſion. There has not been known ſo great a Concourſe of Perſons of Diſtinction, the Stage it ſelf was cover'd with Gentlemen and Ladies, and when the Curtain was drawn, there appear'd alſo a very ſplendid Audience. This unuſual Encouragement, which was given to a Play for the Advantage of ſo Great an Actor, gives an undeniable Inſtance, That the True Reliſh for Manly Entertainments and Rational Pleaſures is not wholly loſt. All the Parts were acted to Perfection, and there ſeem'd a peculiar Regard had to their Behaviour on this Occaſion: No one was guilty of the Affectation to inſert Witticiſms of his own, but a due Reſpect had to the Audience, for encouraging this accompliſh'd Player. It is not now doubted but Plays will revive, and take their uſual Place in the Opinion of Perſons of Wit and Merit, notwithſtanding their late Apoſtacy in Favour of Dreſs and Sound. This Place is very much alter'd ſince Mr. *Dryden* frequented it, where you us'd to ſee *Songs*, *Epigrams*, and *Satyrs*, in the Hands of every Man you met, you have now only a Pack of Cards; and inſtead of the Cavils about the Turn of the Expreſſion, the Elegance of the Style, and the like, the Learned now diſpute only about the Truth of the Game. But however, the Company is alter'd, all have ſhewn a great Reſpect for Mr. *Betterton*: And the very Gaming Part of this Houſe have been ſo much touch'd with a Senſe of the Uncertainty of Humane Affairs, (which alter with themſelves every Moment) that in this Gentleman, they pitied *Mark Anthony* of *Rome*, *Hamlett* of *Denmark*, *Mithridates* of *Pontus*, *Theodoſius* of *Greece*, and *Henry* the Eighth of *England*. It is well known, he has been in the Condition of each of thoſe illuſtrious Perſonages for ſeveral Hours together, and behav'd himſelf in thoſe high Stations, in all the Changes of the Scene, with ſuitable Dignity. For theſe Reaſons, we intend to repeat this late Favour to him on a proper Occaſion, leſt he who can inſtruct us ſo well in perſonating Feigned Sorrows, may not be loſt to us by ſuffering under Real Ones. The Town is at preſent in very great Expectation of ſeeing a Comedy now in Rehearſal, which is the 25th Production of my Honour'd Friend Mr. *Thomas D'Urfey*; who, beſides his great Abilities in the Dramatick, has a peculiar Talent in the Lyrick Way of Writing, and that with a Manner wholly new and unknown to the Antient *Greeks* and *Romans*, and is but faintly imitated in the Tranſlations of the Modern *Italian* Opera's.

St. James's Coffee-houſe, April 11.

Letters from the *Hague* of the 16th ſaid, That Major General *Cadogan* was gone to *Bruſſels*, with Orders to diſperſe proper Inſtructions for aſſembling the whole Force of the Allies in *Flanders* in the Beginning of the next Month. The late Offers concerning Peace, were made in the Style of Perſons who think themſelves upon equal Terms: But the Allies have ſo juſt a Senſe of their preſent Advantages, that they will not admit of a Treaty, except *France* offers what is more ſuitable to her preſent Condition. At the ſame Time we make Preparations, as if we were alarm'd by a greater Force than that which we are carrying into the Field. Thus this Point ſeems now to be argued Sword in Hand; which was what a Great General alluded to, when being ask'd the Names of thoſe who were to be Plenipotentiaries for the enſuing Peace; anſwer'd, with a ſerious Air, *There are about an Hundred thouſand of us.* Mr. *Kidney*, who has the Ear of the greateſt Politicians who come hither, tells me, There is a Mail come in to Day with Letters, dated *Hague*, *April* 19. *N. S.* which ſay, a Deſign of bringing Part of our Troops into the Field at the latter End of this Month, is now alter'd to a Reſolution of marching towards the Camp about the 20th of the next. Prince *Eugene* was then return'd thither from *Amſterdam*. He ſets out from *Bruſſels* on *Tueſday*: The Greater Number of the General Officers at the *Hague*, have Orders to go at the ſame Time. The Squadron at *Dunkirk* conſiſts of ſeven Veſſels. There happen'd t'other Day, in the Road of *Scheveling*, an Engagement between a Privateer of *Zealand* and one of *Dunkirk*. The *Dunkirker*, carrying 33 Pieces of Cannon, was taken and brought into the *Texel*. It is ſaid, the Courier of Monſieur *Routtle* is return'd to him from the Court of *France*. Monſieur *Vendoſme* being reinſtated in the Favour of the Dutcheſs of *Burgundy*, is to command in *Flanders*.

Mr. *Kidney* added, that there were Letters of the 17th from *Ghent*, which give an Account, that the Enemy had form'd a Deſign to ſurpriſe two Battalions of the Allies which lay at *Aloſt*; but thoſe Battalions receiv'd Advice of their March, and retir'd to *Dendermond*. Lieutenant General *Wood* appear'd on this Occaſion at the Head of 5000 Foot and 1000 Horſe, upon which the Enemy withdrew without making any further Attempt.

From my own Apartment.

I am ſorry I am oblig'd to trouble the Publick with ſo much Diſcourſe, upon a Matter which I at the very firſt mentioned as a Trifle, *viz.* the Death of Mr. *Partridge*, under whoſe Name there is an *Almanack* come out for the Year 1709. In one Page of which, it is aſſerted by the ſaid *John Partridge*, That he is ſtill living, and that not only ſo, but that he was alſo living ſome Time before, and even at the Inſtant when I writ of his Death. I have in another Place, and in a Paper by it ſelf, ſufficiently convinc'd this Man that he is dead, and if he has any Shame, I don't doubt but that by this Time he owns it to all his Acquaintance: For tho' the Legs and Arms, and whole Body of that Man may ſtill appear and perform their animal Functions; yet, ſince, as I have elſewhere obſerv'd, his Art is gone, the Man is gone. I am, as I ſaid, concern'd, that this little Matter ſhould make ſo much Noiſe; but ſince I am engag'd, I take my ſelf oblig'd in Honour to go on in my Lucubrations, and by the Help of theſe Arts of which I am Maſter, as well as my Penetration in Aſtrological Speculations, I ſhall, as I ſee Occaſion, proceed to confute other dead Men, who pretend to be in Being, that they are actually deceaſed. I therefore give all Men fair Warning to mend their Manners, for I ſhall from Time to Time print Bills of Mortality; and I beg the Pardon of all ſuch who ſhall be nam'd therein, if they who are good for Nothing ſhall find themſelves in the Number of the Deceas'd.

Advertiſement.

*** A Vindication of *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq; againſt what is objected to Him by Mr. *Partridge*, in his Almanack for the preſent Year 1709. By the ſaid *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq; *London*: Printed in the Year 1709.

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